

## GOFF MAKES DISCOVERIES.

Minutes of the Liquor Dealers' Central Association Vanish.

## TEKULSKY SUMMONED AGAIN.

BUILDER KILPATRICK TELLS OF ARRESTS THAT FOLLOWED HIS REFUSAL TO PAY BLACKMAIL IN CAPT. MC LAUGHLIN'S FROSTED-BUILDING INSPECTOR STRUCK HIM, TOO—EX-WARD MAN KELLY MISSING—MILLER PUT UP \$350 IN CAPT. WARTA'S HANDS TO BE MADE A PATROLMAN—STORY OF A STEEL PIGEON.

Yesterday's proceedings before the Lexow committee proved the truth of the report that Mr. Goff has planned to close the session of the committee in a blaze of glory. It was in many respects the most important day of the session. The story of Builder Kilpatrick was important both from the facts related and the high standing of the witness, the Commissioner. He gave exact evidence of an attempt at extortion by Ward Man Burns of the Old Slip station when Inspector McLaughlin was Captain there, and gave evidence from his business knowledge that he is the only builder in town who does not submit to extortion by both the police and the building inspectors. The story told by a witness from the Tomba, who was designated by Mr. Ross "another Gardner," was bad enough if only half true, and unrepresented in this investigation if wholly true. An applicant for appointment as patrolman told new, after negotiations with Commissioner McLaughlin's man Richards, he put up \$350 in Capt. Warta's hands, of which, he was told, \$300 was to go to the Commissioner who should make the appointment. He wasn't appointed and he got his money back. The testimony given by the Recording Secretary of the Liquor Dealers' Association was nothing less than sensational, as he confessed that he believed his records of the association had been stolen from him in order to keep the records out of the committee's hands. Delegate Morris Tekulsky is coming down from the Constitutional Convention to-day to tell what he knows about this.

Mr. Nicoll was on hand yesterday with Lieut. Ranson, and the new counsel, Mr. Friend, was also present for a short while in the morning, but took no part in the proceedings.

WARD MAN KELLY WAS STUPPED OUT.

The first witness called was Mrs. Mary Kelly, a large, motherly looking woman, who was very serious in her testimony and who understood several sharp charges successfully. She is the wife of Roundaman James Kelly, who

tells you put up some money," Miller agreed with the stranger and made arrangements with the lawyer to keep the engagement. Miller waited the rest of the evening between applications, and then made a call on the chairman this time through Commissioner McLaughlin, who was then a member of the Board, and before letting him leave the stand ruffed him up with these questions:

"Richards said to me that if I wanted to get on the force I would have to put up \$300 in the hands of some good man. He said that an agent of his would be in the right way to have the physical examination done, and had only half a lung. I then took some money I had borrowed from my uncle, Benjamin Price of Brooklyn, and paid him \$300, and took him to Capt. Warta. He told me that as soon as I got my shield he would give me the money."

TOLD THAT \$300 WAS FOR A POLICE COMMISIONER'S HOUSE.

"Q.—Did he say where or how he would place it? A.—No." Richards explained that all applicants were obliged to put up \$300 in the hands of some good man, and that the money was first put up to a second party, retaining \$25, and the second party retained \$275, and so on, until the Commissioner who secured the appointment.

After passing his second examination the witness, some months later, received a note from Lieut. Ranson, Secretary of the Civil Service Board, informing him that his name was on the eligible list.



WITNESS MILLER.

Q.—What did you do then? A.—I came into town and took my notice to Headquarters and asked for my appointment. I first met as agent James Grant. He took my notice and said it was mine. He then met with Mr. Secretary Grant. Grant asked me a number of questions and wound up by saying: "It is all right, you can have the job." Then I was admitted to Mr. McLaughlin's office. The Commissioner looked over my record and said, "I cannot appoint you." My list is filled, and because of that I was not appointed. I said no, that was not that I want to the civil service first, because he was then out of town. He said, "Well, he would be appointed me and I will see you again." Q.—What became of your men who were arrested? They were never called into court.

Q.—And that was your whole experience, and you never got your money back? A.—Oh, yes, I got my money back for Capt. Warta is an honest man. He never charged me every cent and said, "It is a d—d shame that criminals can get on the force and good Americans can't."

Q.—By Mr. Nicoll.—Mr. Grant never told you money was necessary? A.—No.

A.—No, Mr. McLaughlin? A.—No.

Q.—So you tell all tall are we? Richards and Warta, both dead? A.—Yes.

Q.—And in telling your story you are conscious of the fact that you are dead and cannot contradict you? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who did you tell this story to? A.—Assembliesman Lewan.

Q.—The answer of the witness to this caused the committee to obtain evidence through which he could be a good man or he could not be elected Assembliesman from this city.

Q.—James—And he is a member of the Good Government Club? A.—Yes.

Q.—Mr. Nicoll.—Which makes him a good man person?

The witness was excused.

A TENDERLOIN OFFICER STUMPS GOFF.

Next came Patrolman Peter A. Prial. Peter's hair was red and looked as if it had recently come from a comb. He is large and square, and he will go through life with the distinct advantage of possessing a big brown box in which there is no trace to let anyone know that he is a police officer for hire. Purpose? Mr. Goff called him for him, but after Chairman Lexow had gained his confidence in a manner, he stayed in, while the Committee made more strenuous efforts to secure witnesses who asked questions in this investigation. He proved to be an excellent advisory witness.

Q.—What is your general knowledge? A.—Why, I have had builders working for me come with them for paying police and inspectors, and tell them they can pass those bills on to me. That is all that I know.

Q.—Have you ever approached other times? A.—No.

Q.—Who was it you gave it to? A.—Assembliesman Lewan.

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THE WEST HAS SUPPLIED A POPULAR BALLAD, TWO OF THE LINES OF WHICH ARE—

Newspaper to come but in,  
Newspaper to go but out.

Q.—Do you believe in a future and have religious scruples, and with those in mind, do you say you have only told the truth here? A.—If you can stand that, I can.

Then Mr. Goff examined the witness as to her worldly affairs. She said that she and Kelli, having a family grown and self-supporting, had managed to pay through a building and loan association \$2,000 on a \$7,000 piece of property in Brooklyn. Then Mr. Goff observed the effect of the testimony of the witness was having upon all others who heard it, said:

"I only inquired of Mrs. Kelly concerning her property because there has been much testimony given here of the numerous sums of money which passed through her husband's hands. If they have little property, it seems to be evident that what Kelly collected for sidewalk rental was higher and higher each year."

That is what one witness testified Kelly said about the money he collects.

PUT UP \$350 WITH CAPT. WARTA.

The next witness was a young man, Charles W. Miller, with a broad mustache and Long Island side whiskers. He gave his residence as Hyde Park. He testified that four years ago he applied through Jacob McLaughlin for a place on the police force, and upon the advice of George Richards, Commissioner McLaughlin's "assistant secretary," had put \$350 in the hands of the late Capt. Warta. Mr. Nicoll interrupted at this point and said:

"The Captain mentioned died only the other day. I suggest to the committee the importance of listening to alleged conversations between this witness and his dead captain."

Chairman Lexow—it is a hard necessity, but we are not here considering individuals. We are trying to learn the facts regarding a statement and if this testimony will enlighten us it must be admitted."

One witness told this story: He had first made his application through the Board of Civil Service Examiners. He was examined and passed by them, and examined and passed by the surgeons. He was then given a year's probation, during which his appointment was held in abeyance. No money. The witness told the man he did not know what he wanted to do with his money. The man said he wanted to buy a house with his thumb. The man said he would not need these un-

less you put up some money." Miller agreed with the stranger and made arrangements with the lawyer to keep the engagement. Miller waited the rest of the evening between applications, and then made a call on the chairman this time through Commissioner McLaughlin, who was then a member of the Board, and before letting him leave the stand ruffed him up with these questions:

"Richards said to me that if I wanted to get on the force I would have to put up \$300 in the hands of some good man. He said that an agent of his would be in the right way to have the physical examination done, and had only half a lung. I then took some money I had borrowed from my uncle, Benjamin Price of Brooklyn, and paid him \$300, and took him to Capt. Warta. He told me that as soon as I got my shield he would give me the money."

Q.—And that promotion should be on merit alone? A.—Of course.

Q.—The majority of your members would be glad to have masters put in such shape that promotion would come by merit? A.—(Emphatically)—Most certainly.

Q.—Is it the prevailing belief among you

that a great number of promotions are not based upon merit? A.—I presume it is.

Q.—And you would prefer to have it otherwise?

Mr. Goff was not satisfied with the good understanding between the Chairman and this witness. Not even so far as to let him leave the stand ruffed him up with these questions:

"Richards said to me that if I wanted to get on the force I would have to put up \$300 in the hands of some good man. He said that an agent of his would be in the right way to have the physical examination done, and had only half a lung. I then took some money I had borrowed from my uncle, Benjamin Price of Brooklyn, and paid him \$300, and took him to Capt. Warta. He told me that as soon as I got my shield he would give me the money."

Q.—You do not squelch here? A.—I have nothing to squelch.

OLD SILENT POLICE ATTEMPT TO BLACKMAIL A BUILDER.

Then Edward Kilpatrick was called to the stand. He has been in the building business since 1875, and is now president of the New York Building Association. He said he had been in that office for ten years. It was an attorney for him in which he had only half a lung. I then took some money I had borrowed from my uncle, Benjamin Price of Brooklyn, and paid him \$300, and took him to Capt. Warta. He told me that as soon as I got my shield he would give me the money."

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